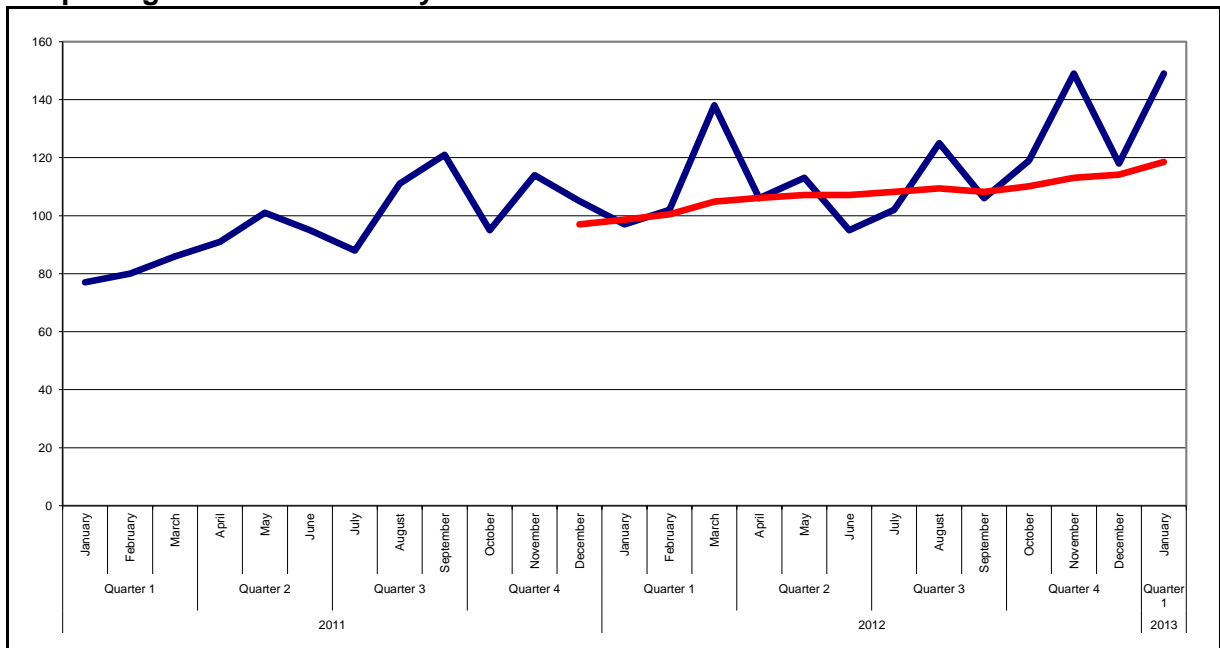


Shoplifting Overview

1. At the last meeting on 5th February 2013 the on-going issue of shoplifting was discussed and as agreed more detailed analysis is contained within this report.
2. The chart below illustrates crime levels relating to shoplifting levels since the beginning of 2011, showing that this type of crime has been following an increasing trend since October 2012.

Shoplifting trend from January 2011



3. From April 2012 to the end January 2013 there have been 1181 offences, this is an increase of 16% on same time previous year and equates to 163 more crimes. This averages at 3.85 shoplifting offences a day or 118 crimes per month.
4. The detection rate is also lower than the comparable financial period with reduction of 6.7% (currently 73.8%/872 crimes detected).
5. Shoplifting also accounts for 24.4% of all acquisitive crime offences (4835 crimes), this again compares to 19.9% in April 2011-Jan2012. Shoplifting is also the only crime category within the acquisitive crime group that is increasing.
6. When compared with the three other local authorities Stockton is the only borough to see an increase; Hartlepool (reduction of 37 crimes/-5.7%), Middlesbrough (reduction of 145 crimes/-8.4%) and Redcar (reduction of 16 crimes/-2.2%).

7. However, Stockton District is also responsible for Teesside Retail Park, which attracts a wider criminal audience from all over Cleveland and travelling criminals. There have been 124 crimes during the researched period, when compared to 89 same period in 2011/12 (April-Jan). This is an increase of 39% for this one shopping location.

Key themes are Repeat Locations and Offenders:-

8. There have been approximately 200 separate stores that have been subject to shoplifting offences. Of these 200 stores, there were 35 (17%) which had 10 or more crimes. Further analysis of this also shows that the top five stores are responsible for 21% (251 crimes) of all shoplifting (4 x Supermarkets and one Department store).
9. On-going work continues with repeat stores however, one of the Top 5 stores refuses to use deterring and would rather detain and subsequently arrest. Numerous meetings have taken place with Security Manager to discuss this issue, along with providing advice on security measures and provision of uniforms. However the manager refuses to change their stance towards deterring and will still only use plain clothes Officers. Despite this, there is good working relationship between the store and police and 90% of offences are detected at this location.
10. In relation to offenders, there were 174 offenders which equates to 28% of all offenders, who were linked to more than one shoplifting offence. This also includes 27 who were linked to five or more crimes during the ten month period.
 - Further research also shows that 5 of the top 6 repeat offenders were High Crime Causers (HCC).
 - The repeat offenders (174 persons) also accounted for 59% of all the detections.
 - In terms of ages, there were 91 juveniles (17yrs and under) were linked to 90 crimes, which equates to 10.5% of all detections.
11. On-going proactive work and initiatives are in place to tackle shoplifting, and Shoplifting is reviewed on daily basis by police analysts in Stockton, and is discussed at daily intelligence meetings. This includes identifying any new locations of note and offenders. The Community Safety ASB Team also reviews any offenders who have been violent when detained or arrested in order to ascertain suitability for an ASBO/ CRASBO.
12. Shoplifting also forms part of the monthly acquisitive crime meetings, led by DCI Donaghy, Stockton Police. This also includes reviewing and discussing tactics in place to tackle repeat locations and offenders. Repeat stores are regularly visited by Crime Reduction and NPT Officers and other ongoing work includes:-
 - Adopt a Shop/Briefing stores on security/layout
 - Joint visits with licensing dept/Exclusion zone
 - 140 town centre retailers signed up to the Shopwatch Scheme with the intention of excluding individuals and looking at planning applications – advising at concept stage re: Layout/CCTV/local issues.
13. A study is also underway by Durham University in relation to first time offenders. This relates to those that have been arrested and received a caution

or charge thus resulting in criminal conviction. The aim of the study is to understand the motivation and possible risk factors of adult offenders who have not been involved in criminal activities before. Research was conducted by Police Analysts, Stockton Police station to identify suitable nominals for this study. Of the 56 identified, there were 34 linked to shoplifting. The results of the study will be dependent upon the number of willing participants and is expected to take several months to a year to complete. A copy of the questionnaire sent to those identified is enclosed within the SSP papers.

About you:

1. **Age:** _____

2. **Gender:** Male Female

3. **RELATIONSHIP STATUS:** (please indicate the statement which relates mostly to you)

I am married

I am in a long term relationship (3 years or more)

I am in a relationship (between 6 months and 3 years)

I am in an early relationship (6 months or less)

Single/ divorced

Other (please state) -

4. **Please read each statement and decide how well it describes you. Mark your answer using the appropriate number (0-3) and circle one number for each statement.**

	Not at all true	Somewhat true	Very true	Definitely true
1. I am concerned about the feelings of others.	0	1	2	3
2. I care about how well I do at school or work.	0	1	2	3
3. I do not like to put the time into doing things well.	0	1	2	3
4. I am very expressive and emotional.	0	1	2	3
5. I seem very cold and uncaring to others.	0	1	2	3
6. I feel bad or guilty when I do something wrong.	0	1	2	3

5. **Ethnicity:** Choose one of the following to indicate your ethnic background:

White

British

- Irish
- Any other White background

Mixed:

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other mixed background

Asian or Asian British:

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Any other Asian background

Black or Black British

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black background

Chinese or other ethnic group

- Chinese
- Any other

- Do not wish to answer

6. **Your highest level of education:**
- Primary School
 - Secondary School
 - College/Sixth-Form
 - University
 - Vocational
 - Postgraduate studies (Masters)Primary
 - Postgraduate studies (PhD)
 - Did not go to school
 - Other (please specify)

About your family/neighbourhood:

7. **How many people do you live with?** _____
8. **Do you have dependents? If yes, how many?** _____
9. **Does your family have more or less money compared to other families in your neighbourhood? (circle one)**

- A We have a lot less money than other families
- B We have little less money than other families
- C We have as much money as other families
- D We have a little more money than other families
- E We have a lot more money than other families

10. Answer True or False to these statements about your neighbourhood:

1 I know many people who live here	T	F
2 I have seen things when I've been out one night that have got me concerned	T	F
3 Problems such as noisy people, graffiti, and burglary are quite common	T	F
4 Violent crimes don't usually happen (physical abuse, robbery, rape)	T	F
5 The police are often in the area	T	F
6 My neighbours usually say hi to me when we meet	T	F
7 I feel safe when I am outside	T	F
8 I think it's clean and nice in the area	T	F
9 The neighbours don't talk to each other when they meet	T	F
10 I feel unsafe when I am out in the evenings	T	F
11 I know my neighbours' names	T	F
12 There is not much to do for young people in the area	T	F
13 It has happened that someone threatened, hit, or chased me	T	F
14 It has happened that I saw someone I did not know being threatened, hit, or chased	T	F
15 It has happened that I saw someone I know being threatened, hit, or chased	T	F

About work:

11. Are you working? Yes (go to question 12) No (go to question 13)

12. If working, **What kind of job do you**

do? _____

How many hours a week do you work, on the

average? _____

How long have you had this job?

13. If not working:

- a. Are you a student? Yes No
- b. Have you been fired or laid off? Yes No
- c. Have you done any work, but not for pay, like a volunteer job? Yes No
- d. Are you actively seeking work? Yes No

a. How many applications have you done in the last 12 months?

b. How many interviews have you had in the last 12 months?

e. What is the main reason that you are not working at this time? Explain below

14. Do you currently receive any benefits? Yes No

If you answered Yes, please specify below:

About your contact with the law:

15. Legal Status:	
	1. How many arrests have you ever had in your life?
	1a. How many arrests were for an assault or violent offence?
	2. How many cautions have you ever had?
	3. How many days in jail/prison have you ever had?

16. What was the last offence that you were charged with? Explain what the charge was.

17. Have you ever done any of the following? Answer YES or NO and write the age you were when you first did each thing. Also, write down how many of your family members or current friends that you know have done each thing.

1. Purposely damaged or destroyed other property that did not belong to you.	No _____	Yes _____ How old were you when you first did this?_____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
2. Stolen (or tried to steal) something worth over £50.	No _____	Yes _____ How old were you when you first did this?_____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
3. Run away from home.	No _____	Yes _____ How old were you when you first did this?_____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
4. Carried a hidden weapon other than a plain pocket knife.	No _____	Yes _____ How old were you when you first did this?_____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
5. Attacked someone with the idea of seriously hurting or killing them.	No _____	Yes _____ How old were you when you first did this?_____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
6. Taken a vehicle for a ride (drive) without the owners'	No _____	Yes _____ How old were you when you first did

permission.		this? _____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
7. Used force (or strong arm methods) to get money from other people.	No ____	Yes ____ How old were you when you first did this? _____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
8. Avoided paying for things such as the cinema, bus or train fares or food.	No ____	Yes ____ How old were you when you first did this? _____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
9. Broken into a building or vehicle (or tried to break in) to steal something or just to look around.	No ____	Yes ____ How old were you when you first did this? _____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____
10. Been excluded from school.	No ____	Yes ____ How old were you when you first did this? _____ How many of your friends/family have ever done this? _____

18. These next questions ask about your drug and alcohol use. Please answer how many times **in the last year** you have used the following.

	No	1 time	2 -3 times	4 – 10 times	More than 10 times
1. Have you drunk so much alcohol (beer, liquor, wine) that you got drunk?					
2. Have you smoked marijuana-Hashish (pot, grass, cannabis, weed)?					
3. Have you used any drugs other than marijuana-Hashish (pot, grass, cannabis, weed) – other than prescribed for you?					

19. Are you in a drug/alcohol treatment programme? Yes No

About youths:

Mother's/Guardian's Level of education: Primary School
 Secondary School
 College/Sixth-Form
 University
 Vocational
 Postgraduate studies (Masters)
 Postgraduate studies (PhD)
 Did not go to school
 Other (please specify)

Father's/Guardian's Level of education: Primary School
 Secondary School
 College/Sixth-Form
 University
 Vocational
 Postgraduate studies (Masters)
 Postgraduate studies (PhD)
 Did not go to school
 Other (please specify)

Which adults do you live with (if applicable)? (circle one)

- A Both mother and father
- B With mother
- C With father
- D Sometimes with mother, sometimes with father
- E Grandmother / Grandfather
- E Another person, who?.....

How many brothers do you have? _____

How many sisters do you have? _____

These next questions are about you and your parents/guardians.

Do your parents normally know where you go and what you do after school?

- 1 yes, everything
- 2 yes, mostly
- 3 partly
- 4 no, very little
- 5 no, nothing

Do you hide a lot from your parents about what you do at night and on weekends?

- 1 very much
- 2 rather much
- 3 some parts
- 4 just a little
- 5 nothing at all

Do your parents usually ask you to talk about things that happened during your free time (whom you met when you were out in the city, etc.)?

- 1 a lot
- 2 fairly often
- 3 sometimes
- 4 usually not
- 5 almost never

Participant Information Form

Study Title: Motivation for first-time offences

Researcher: Dr. Luna Muñoz Centifanti

Department of Psychology

University of Durham

0191 33 43245 or 0191 33 40808

Luna.Munoz@durham.ac.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are being contacted to participate in a research study conducted by **Dr Luna Muñoz Centifanti** from the Psychology department of the University of Durham and **Stockton Community Safety Team** because you were charged with a crime and had no prior history of offending. Enclosed with this letter is a survey that we would kindly ask you to complete. The survey will help us to understand **why people offend**. The survey enclosed in this letter will ask you some brief information about yourself, your family and the neighbourhood that you live in. The survey is divided into several sections. These are questions: **'About you', 'About your family/neighbourhood', 'About work', 'About your contact with the law'** and if you are under 18 years of age **'About youths'**. It should **take no more than 20 minutes** to complete these sections.

Some questions may require you to share some personal information. Please answer honestly. All the answer that you will give in this survey will **remain confidential and anonymous**. After you completed the questions, there is a **business reply envelope** enclosed in this pack with postage already paid for. **When you send off the completed survey, it will go straight to the researchers at the University of Durham**. For it to be anonymous, no identifiable personal information, e.g. your name or date of birth, must be anywhere on the survey itself. The researchers also will not receive any personal information about you. The information that you have given will then be entered into a database and will be analysed with all other data. Any publications that come out of this research will not identify any single individual but will group everyone's responses.

It's not compulsory for you to finish the survey once you have started it. **You can quit at any time**. If you decide not to take part in this survey, this is not a problem and will have no further consequences. Also, **if there are questions you feel uncomfortable answering, you do not have to answer them**. **Participation in this survey is completely voluntary**. However, after you have sent off your completed questions to the researchers, you will not be able to withdraw as your answers remain anonymous and cannot be identified.

WITH COMPLETING AND SENDING OFF THIS SURVEY, YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR CONSENT TO TAKE PART.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please contact the researcher Dr. Luna Muñoz Centifanti or members of the Stockton Community Safety Team. Contact details are at the top of this sheet. If in any way, some of the questions have distressed and you would like to talk someone, please enclosed a sheet with **contact details of independent services and helplines.**

THIS IS FOR YOU TO KEEP!

Debrief:

The purpose of this study was to see what factors might be important to people involved with the criminal justice system for the first time. The information you provide could help to keep other people from getting involved with the police. That is, the Stockton Community Safety Team implement programmes that keep people from coming to harm, which can happen to people involved in crime (people engaged in committing crimes are often victims). Thank you for your help in this work.

Possible Helplines

The Mental Health Foundation offer information and advice about anxiety and also produces podcasts which could help with anxiety.

Tel: 020 7803 1100

Email: mhf@mhf.org Web: www.mentalhealth.org.uk

MIND gives information and advice about mental health problems

Tel: 0300 123 3393

Email: info@mind.org.uk

Childline listens and gives advice to children and young people 24/7 and confidentially

Tel: 0800 1111